

September 25, 2009

VIRGINIA MAIN STREET

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER



Training opportunities:

- Entrepreneur Express Workshops
- VA-1 Tourism Conference
- Virginia Small Business Development Center (SBDC) trainings
- Virginia Tourism Corporation Help Desks
- Art and the Creative Economy Conference
- Virginia Microenterprise Network (VMN) Conference
- Virginia Downtown Development Association (VDDA) Annual Conference

Announcements:

- VMS Quick Quiz: On the Blog
- Virginia Main Street Offers Training Archive
- National Community Planning Month

Virginia Main Street community events:

- Bedford, *CenterFest 2009*
- Culpeper, *Taste of Culpeper*
- Radford, *Highlanders Festival*
- Franklin, *Fall Festival*
- South Boston, *Harvest Festival*

Training opportunities

Entrepreneur Express Workshops

Sept. 30: Surry

Oct. 14: Gloucester

Oct. 15: Dickenson County

Oct. 29: Galax

The series of free half-day Entrepreneur Express Workshops provides interactive discussions and exercises covering key elements of business practices. More information and registration is available online at: www.vastartup.org.

VA-1 Tourism Conference

Sept. 28 - 29

Alexandria, Virginia

Maximize your tourism marketing potential with information, strategies, and contacts gained at the Virginia Tourism Corporation's annual conference on Travel and Tourism. For more information and registration visit: <http://www.vatc.org/VA1/index.asp>.

Virginia Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Trainings

Sept. 30: Business Plan Workshop, Fredericksburg

Small Business Development Centers throughout the commonwealth offer two to four hour training programs and seminars on a variety of topics including business planning, marketing, management, legal considerations, accounting and bookkeeping, financial analysis, technology, access to capital, and business basics. For more upcoming events, visit: <http://www.virginiاسبdc.org>.

Virginia Tourism Corporation Help Desks

Oct. 6: Virginia Beach

Oct. 8: Williamsburg

Oct 19: Clifton Forge

Oct 21: Harrisonburg

Oct. 23: Roanoke

This series of community and business training sessions gives individual businesses one-on-one time with Virginia Tourism Corporation's staff of developers, trainers and marketers. Attend a breakout session at 11 a.m. for orientation, grants and customer service training. The best times to attend are in the morning and early afternoon, no appointment is necessary, and convenient and free parking is available at each location.

Art and the Creative Economy Conference

Oct. 13 –15

South Boston

The Prizery, Parsons Bruce Art Association, Convergence Art Guild and Destination Downtown South Boston will present the second annual conference on the arts and their relationship to building our communities. More information and registration online at: www.artcomnow.com.

Virginia Microenterprise Network (VMN) Conference

Oct. 17 - 19

Williamsburg, Virginia

The *Going Local, Going Green, Going Micro* conference will be ideal for Main Street programs, community economic developers, and organizations working in microenterprise development, eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture. For more information and registration visit: www.vamicro.org.

Virginia Downtown Development Association (VDDA) 25th Annual Conference

Oct. 29

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Explore the concept of *Uniquing your Downtown* as a critical element to the health and success of a historic downtown and learn some very practical ways to enhance, promote and capitalize on the special character Virginia's downtowns have to offer. For more information and registration visit: www.downtownvirginia.org.

Announcements

VMS Quick Quiz: On the Blog

New posts are added to the [VMS Blog](#) each week. Take the [holiday retail poll](#) and find answers to the following questions:

[What is “placecasting?”](#)

[Where’s the big chair?](#)

[Why might now be a good time to invest in downtown?](#)

Virginia Main Street offers training archive

Beginning with the materials from the 2009 Main Street Essentials training, presentations from Virginia Main Street events will be archived online at the DHCD Web site. To download notes to share in your community visit the [Virginia Main Street Training Archive](#).

National Community Planning Month

Be an advocate for sustainably planned communities and celebrate the planned progress in your town. October is community planning month - an opportunity to promote public participation and to highlight the planned progress in your town. For more information, tools and suggestions, visit the Web site of the American Planning Association at: <http://www.planning.org/ncpm/index.htm>.

Virginia Main Street Community Events

Bedford, *CenterFest 2009*

Friday-Saturday, Sept. 25 - 26

Celebrate Centertown Bedford with the CenterFest kickoff concert on Friday evening and the full festival the next day. For more information visit: www.centertownbedford.com.

Culpeper, Taste of Culpeper

Sunday, Oct. 11

Try the fare of local restaurants and the products of local wineries and microbreweries at this family-friendly Culpeper tradition. For more information, visit: www.culpeperdowntown.com.

Franklin, *Fall Festival*

Friday - Saturday, Oct. 2 - 3

This year’s *Fall Festival* kicks off with two bands and fireworks at Barrett’s Landing on Friday night. For more information visit: www.downtownfranklinva.org.

Radford, 14th Annual Highlanders Festival

Friday - Saturday, Oct. 2 - 3

This annual tradition features a “Taste of the Highlands” Scotch tasting, a pancake breakfast, the Radford Farmers Market, and the Highlander parade. For more information, visit: www.runet.edu/festival.

South Boston, Harvest Festival

Saturday, Sept. 26

Enjoy activities, entertainment on four stages, great food, more than 100 vendors and more at this annual street festival. For more information visit: www.soboharvestfest.com.

The e-newsletter is a monthly service of the Virginia Main Street office in the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. To include an announcement of an upcoming training opportunity or local event, please contact Program Administrator Doug Jackson.

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